

News

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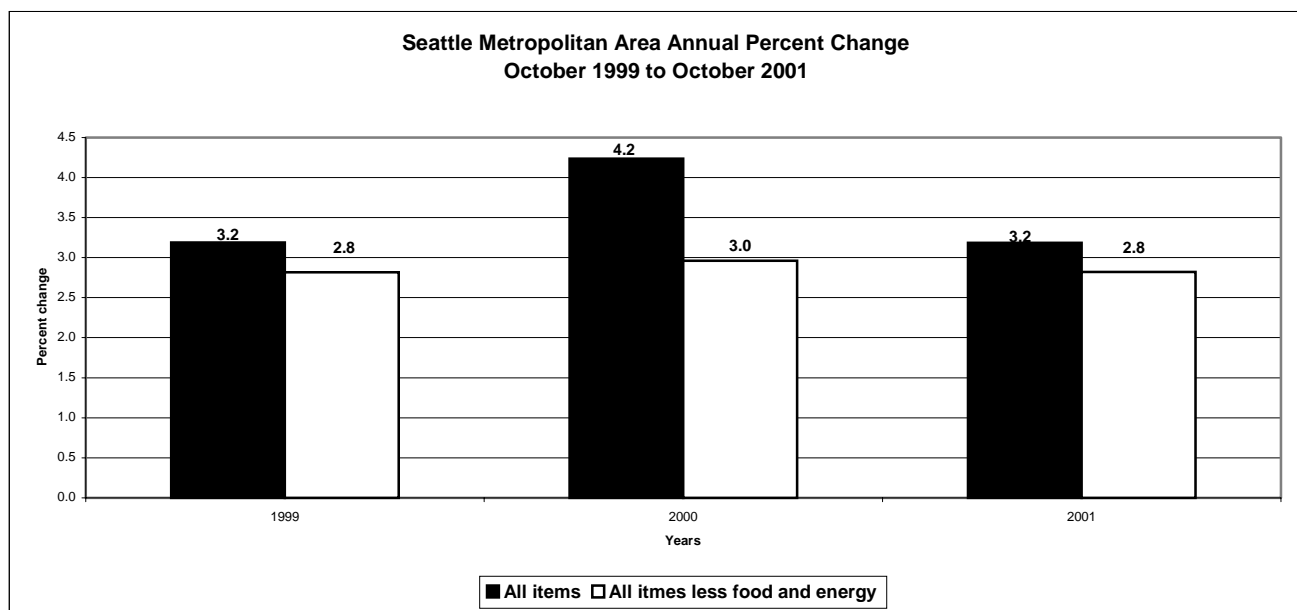
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FOR RELEASE:

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SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON AREA PRICES ADVANCE 0.6 PERCENT FROM AUGUST TO OCTOBER

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported consumer prices in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area increased 0.6 percent for the two months ending October, after moving up 0.3 percent from June to August. According the Bureau's Regional Commissioner, Stanley P. Stephenson, advances in food and beverages and transportation expenditures provided significant upward pressure to the all items index over the recent two-month period. The overall price level increased 3.5 percent year to date, compared to 4.4 percent for the first 10 months of 2000. During the past 12 months, the all items index increased 3.2 percent while the all items less food and energy index increased 2.8 percent. Local area Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.



Prices paid for food and beverages advanced 1.6 percent during the past two months and have increased 3.7 percent over the year. Since August, the food at home index climbed 2.4 percent while the food away from home index increased 0.9 percent. During the same period, prices for alcoholic beverages declined 1.6 percent and measured 1.0 percent lower than a year ago. Over the past 12 months, the food at home index and the food away from home index showed gains of 4.1 and 4.3 percent, respectively.

The transportation index increased 1.3 percent since August, offsetting the 1.3 percent decline in the previous two-month period. Gasoline prices jumped 7.5 percent during the recent two months. Nevertheless, Seattle area consumers paid 4.7 percent less than they did a year ago. The private transportation index advanced 2.1 from August to October and showed an increase of 0.4 percent during the past year. Overall transportation prices have also advanced 0.4 percent since October 2000.

The recreation index rose 1.1 percent from August to October, following declining prices in each period since October 2000. Recreation prices measured 0.8 percent lower than 12 months ago.

The education and communication index advanced 0.7 percent over the past two months and increased 1.9 percent from 12 months ago.

Since August, the other goods and services index increased 0.6 percent, offsetting the 0.5 percent decrease reported in the previous period. Compared to August 2000, the category registered an advance of 2.3 percent.

Medical care prices edged up 0.2 percent this latest two-month period, following a 1.5 percent increase from August to October. Over the year, the medical care index rose 4.7 percent.

Prices for apparel inched up 0.1 percent for the two months ending October, following a 2.9 percent gain during the prior two-month period. Compared to a year ago, however, apparel prices were 3.2 percent lower.

The housing index declined 0.2 percent from August to October, the first downward move since bi-monthly publication resumed in December 1997. The largest impact on housing during the latest two-month period came from a 0.4 percent decrease in shelter expenditures. Prices decreased for lodging away from home, an unpublished sub-category, contributing to the decline in shelter. Also within shelter, rent of primary residence advanced 1.3 percent, while owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index increased 0.8 percent from two months ago. The fuels and utilities component advanced 1.1 percent since August. Prices for electricity increased 5.9 percent for the past two months and reflected a gain of 22.3 percent over the year. The index for utility natural gas edged down 7.8 percent over the past two months, but measured 15.2 percent higher since October 2000. Prices for household furnishings and operations increased 0.2 percent since August and were up 4.4 percent over the past 12 months. Despite the recent decline in the housing index, during the past 12 months, overall housing expenditures have advanced 5.6 percent, the largest annual gain among all major categories.

The October 0.6 percent increase brought the All Items, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area to 187.9 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$187.90 in October 2001.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | Percent change from- | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aug. 2001 | Sep. 2001 | Oct. 2001 | Oct. 2000 | Aug. 2001 | Sep. 2001 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | | |
| All items | 186.8 | - | 187.9 | 3.2 | 0.6 | - |
| All items (1967=100) | 569.6 | - | 572.7 | - | - | - |
| Food and beverages | 180.6 | - | 183.4 | 3.7 | 1.6 | - |
| Food | 181.3 | - | 184.7 | 4.2 | 1.9 | - |
| Food at home | 180.4 | 181.0 | 184.7 | 4.1 | 2.4 | 2.0 |
| Food away from home | 184.7 | - | 186.3 | 4.3 | 0.9 | - |
| Alcoholic beverages | 173.3 | - | 170.6 | -1.0 | -1.6 | - |
| Housing | 198.7 | - | 198.4 | 5.6 | -0.2 | - |
| Shelter | 216.4 | 216.6 | 215.6 | 4.8 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Rent of primary residence (1)..... | 205.1 | 206.2 | 207.7 | 6.6 | 1.3 | 0.7 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2) | 221.6 | 222.5 | 223.3 | 5.3 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| Fuels and utilities | 157.9 | - | 159.7 | 14.7 | 1.1 | - |
| Fuels | 161.3 | 161.6 | 164.1 | 19.2 | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| Gas (piped) and electricity (1)..... | 195.4 | 195.4 | 198.6 | 20.1 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Electricity (1)..... | 196.5 | 196.5 | 208.1 | 22.3 | 5.9 | 5.9 |
| Utility natural gas service (1)..... | 160.0 | 160.0 | 147.6 | 15.2 | -7.8 | -7.8 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 177.2 | - | 177.5 | 4.4 | 0.2 | - |
| Apparel | 126.3 | - | 126.4 | -3.2 | 0.1 | - |
| Transportation | 161.5 | - | 163.6 | 0.4 | 1.3 | - |
| Private transportation | 165.9 | - | 169.4 | 0.4 | 2.1 | - |
| Motor fuel | 160.2 | 174.8 | 172.0 | -4.8 | 7.4 | -1.6 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 163.3 | 178.3 | 175.5 | -4.7 | 7.5 | -1.6 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular (3)..... | 178.0 | 194.9 | 191.1 | -5.1 | 7.4 | -1.9 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3) (4)..... | 127.0 | 138.7 | 137.4 | -4.2 | 8.2 | -0.9 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium (3)..... | 150.2 | 162.6 | 160.5 | -3.9 | 6.9 | -1.3 |
| Medical care | 259.8 | - | 260.2 | 4.7 | 0.2 | - |
| Recreation (5)..... | 99.7 | - | 100.8 | -0.8 | 1.1 | - |
| Education and communication (5)..... | 106.4 | - | 107.1 | 1.9 | 0.7 | - |
| Other goods and services | 275.5 | - | 277.2 | 2.3 | 0.6 | - |

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | Percent change from- | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aug. 2001 | Sep. 2001 | Oct. 2001 | Oct. 2000 | Aug. 2001 | Sep. 2001 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | | |
| All items | 186.8 | - | 187.9 | 3.2 | 0.6 | - |
| Commodities | 159.6 | - | 162.2 | 1.2 | 1.6 | - |
| Commodities less food and beverages | 148.4 | - | 150.7 | -0.4 | 1.5 | - |
| Nondurables less food and beverages | 150.6 | - | 154.1 | -1.4 | 2.3 | - |
| Durables | 146.6 | - | 147.5 | 0.9 | 0.6 | - |
| Services | 212.7 | - | 212.4 | 4.6 | -0.1 | - |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 183.3 | - | 184.4 | 3.1 | 0.6 | - |
| All items less shelter | 176.3 | - | 178.0 | 2.4 | 1.0 | - |
| Commodities less food | 149.2 | - | 151.4 | -0.4 | 1.5 | - |
| Nondurables | 165.2 | - | 168.4 | 1.2 | 1.9 | - |
| Nondurables less food | 151.8 | - | 154.9 | -1.3 | 2.0 | - |
| Services less rent of shelter (2) | 213.7 | - | 214.1 | 4.3 | 0.2 | - |
| Services less medical care services | 208.7 | - | 208.4 | 4.5 | -0.1 | - |
| Energy | 161.3 | 169.1 | 168.8 | 5.0 | 4.6 | -0.2 |
| All items less energy | 190.9 | - | 191.4 | 3.1 | 0.3 | - |
| All items less food and energy | 193.0 | - | 193.0 | 2.8 | 0.0 | - |

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

5 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.